



## **US Army Corps of Engineers ®**

### **Albuquerque District**

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#### **STIMULUS**

Corps stimulates New Mexico/Colorado small business community; Businesses get slice of \$29 million stimulus pie

ALBUQUERQUE — Twenty six small businesses, mostly in New Mexico and Colorado, already benefit from added money in the form of \$29,168,822 in stimulus money thus far for military engineering and construction, and operations and maintenance under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – ARRA -- of 2009.

As of today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District has awarded 36 projects since June to businesses large and small, resulting in approximately 290 employed in New Mexico and Colorado with the Corps overseeing many more contractor jobs.

"ARRA is a national initiative that we are responsible for executing locally," said Lt. Colonel Kimberly M. Colloton, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District. "We've been looking forward to using this funding to complete some key and essential projects and help energize local economies."

Ten of the 36 projects have already been completed within the district. Of the 36 contracts awarded this year, 72 percent were awarded to small businesses.

"Small businesses are the heart of our economy and we're pleased that about half of our awards have gone to small businesses in New Mexico thus far," said Daniel Curado, deputy for small business for the Corps in Albuquerque. "The ARRA provides an opportunity for local small businesses to help carry out our mission and participate in the improvement of today's economy. Historically, small businesses play an important role in helping the nation recover from economic downturns."

A New Mexico-based small business firm that is benefitting from the most recent project award provided by the Corps was awarded on Sept. 30 to Conservation Services located in Jarales, New Mexico. The ARRA project is funded with \$784,071 to improve wildlife habitat at Bottomless Lakes State Park, New Mexico's first state park located approximately 12 miles outside of Roswell.

"This is a small disadvantaged business award," said Curado. "To be classified as a disadvantaged small business, it must be at least fifty one percent owned and/or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals."

The purpose of the award is for placement of a 3,000 linear foot boardwalk with wildlife blinds, removal of salt cedar from four acres of wetland habitat, and salt cedar re-sprout treatment. The contract is estimated to employ five individuals and is scheduled for completion in May 2010.

Though many ARRA projects in New Mexico and Colorado represent small slices of the \$29 million stimulus funding pie between the two states, the work continues to help stabilize local economies of small towns, not just larger ones. Other examples of ARRA projects include an Overlay of Project Roads and Parking lots project at John Martin Reservoir in Colorado that was awarded in July in the amount of nearly \$1.5 million, and an Electrical System Upgrade Design project at Abiquiu Lake in New Mexico awarded in August for \$213,588.

Appropriated by Congress and signed into law in February 2009, this part of the nation's stimulus package was created so the Corps of Engineers in Albuquerque can perform essential civil works construction, and operations and maintenance work in New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Such as in the Overlay of Project Roads and Parking lots project at Conchas Lake, N.M., awarded in July in the amount of nearly \$1.6 million. An echo from the past, this roads and parking lots project is reminiscent of a historic attempt to revive a nation more than 75 years ago.

"An interesting aspect to this particular award is that Conchas was part of the original recovery act passed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression in the 1930s," the colonel said. "The intent was to not only spur the economy, but to provide flood relief. Here we are 75 years later working to not only spur the economy again, but provide infrastructure needs to Conchas Dam with recovery act dollars."

Stimulus projects in New Mexico include a Child Development Center at Cannon Air Force Base, awarded in August, in the amount of nearly \$7.9 million. It is a larger part of a \$10.7 million award intended to augment and modernize a base critical to the nation's defense. When complete, the structure will afford war fighters with the peace of mind that their families will be provided great care in a modern facility.

The Corps assisted in the project award at Cannon and will oversee the \$7.9 million construction of the center. The additional \$2.8 million at Cannon provides for utilities to support infrastructure on the Southeast side of the base and these Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization projects were also awarded in August.

Out of the Albuquerque District there are 13 projects awarded thus far to small businesses in New Mexico, two to California, one to Colorado, one to Texas, and one to Arizona.

To see project photos or receive more information on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District project-by-project ARRA awards through Oct. 16, 2009, visit: [www.spa.usace.army.mil](http://www.spa.usace.army.mil).

Conchas ARRA photos:







